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San Juan

Ador Old saint Jago

Utr



Wm. J.
1.-

Wm. J. Macey Esq. M. S.
with the author's very respectful
compliments
SA 2675/8
Geo. J. Macey
1903

"OLD SAINT JAGO."

BY
G. F. J.
1894.



JAMAICA :
W. A. FEURTADO'S SONS, PRINTERS,
134 TOWER STREET, KINGSTON.

1896

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SA 2675.8



PREFACE.

Bright fund

S. F. Jones

THE contents of this little Book formed the subject of a lecture delivered at the Town Hall in Saint Jago de la Vega, to a very limited audience in the year 1884. The author takes this opportunity to tender his warmest thanks to the Right Reverend Bishop DOUET, His Excellency the Honorable R. B. LLEWELLYN, C.M.G. and his very amiable wife, the Honorable THOMAS L. HARVEY, EDWARD B. LYNCH, Esquire, Deputy Keeper of Records, JAMES RICHMOND, Esquire, Deputy Director of Roads and Works, JAMES W. WELSH, Esquire, Clerk of the Parochial Boards of Clarendon, E. N. McLAUGHLIN, Esquire, Chief Clerk in the Island Record Office, Mr. CHARLES THEOPHILUS JUDAH and others, for their attendance on the evening of the Lecture. He begs also to tender his high appreciation of the kind feeling and interest manifested by the Honorable R. B. LLEWELLYN, C.M.G., and wife, who specially asked for the delivery of the Lecture, before the evening originally fixed for it, in order to enable them to be present: as they were, almost immediately, about to leave Jamaica for Turks Island.

To the Honorable THOMAS LLOYD HARVEY he takes leave respectfully to tender in these pages a tribute of regard in gratitude for his unswerving devotedness, acknowledged by all in the community, to his native town and everything connected with its advancement and prosperity.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

TO THE READER—

IN taking up these scattered threads in the annals of my country, I do not pretend to assume the role of a preceptor in the History of Jamaica ; neither do I attempt to arrogate to myself the privilege of originality or even of succinctness. *

To those who are well versed in the traditions and chronology of this Colony, I can only stand at a distance, and acknowledge myself their humble cup-bearer. To those who are not so thoroughly acquainted with the events that have occurred, marking the foot-prints of time in our island ; but who have, here and there, picked up some fragmentary knowledge of the past, in connection with their native or adopted home, I might probably, for a few moments, be a companion—I hope a pleasant one—in recalling circumstances and scenes sweet in their memory and in mine. To those who have made but slight acquaintance with Jamaica's history, I hope to be a welcome narrator of occurrences. Not unlike, one of perhaps, the familiar Story-tellers of Eastern climes : Or those old men of former years in Scotland, who used to recite the deeds of Kings, Warriors and Statesmen, long passed away into the portals of the tomb and the regions of the “dim unknown.”

In any case, with your permission, the satisfaction of pleasing the ear, and transporting imagination and fancy, while I recite facts and trace scenes, which carry us back into periods gone by, will amply have rewarded the desires of one who has the privilege and pleasure now to address you.

* NOTE—I am indebted for the contents of this Book, mainly to Bridge's Annals of Jamaica, and Archer's Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies.

CHAPTER I.

I intend to speak to you about my native town, Saint Jago de la Vega. But before I do so, it might not be deemed amiss, if I ask you to take with me a cursory glance of what should, I think, be the first part of my dissertation—the island of Jamaica, of which our old Saint Jago is but a town.

I must at once frankly confess to a feeling of pride, and ask you to bear with me, as I primarily speak of Jamaica as a whole. I am sure you will pardon that pride, when you remember that Jamaica, under the British flag, was the outcome of peculiar times in England's history. It was a conquest on the part of the "Commonwealth of England", under the Lord Protector Cromwell: and although first settled by those who served under "The Usurper," as he is sometimes termed in history, it became the home, under "The Restoration" as well of the former, as of those who still espoused the principles of the HOUSE OF STUART.

It was on the morning of the 3rd day of May 1494, when, from the offing of a deep bay, called by the great Discoverer, Puerto Grande (now Puerto de San Pedro) on the coast of Cuba, that Columbus, for the first time, beheld the lofty mountains of the island of Jamaica. His first unsuccessful attempt to land at

Santa Maria (so called from the name of his first ship) now Port Maria, was followed by another unsuccessful attempt to land at "Ora Cabeza," now *Oracabessa*. These unsuccessful attempts were caused by the hostility of the native Indians of the island ; a large body of whom the Discoverer's boat-parties met, and who seemed determined to oppose their landing.

Nearly four hundred years have elapsed since that time. The names of Port Maria and Oracabessa now carry us back through that long vista of years ; and we look peeringly through that period and seem to catch a glimpse even to-day, of the first contact of civilized Europe with the Aborigines of these regions—the contact of proud Imperial Spain of the 15th century with the native Indians of the islands of the Caribbean Sea !

After standing out to sea again, Columbus crossed over to Cuba ; whence he subsequently named the newly discovered island, (called by the natives Xaymaca) Saint Jago, the name of the Patron Saint of Spain. On the 22nd of June following, approaching the island from the westward, he beat to windward, along the southside, and doubling the eastern point landed at Rio Bueno.

It was the fourth time, and in the year 1502, that Columbus again bent his course hither,. His visit was then one of compulsion. With his son and

brothers, and two ships, on his return from his disastrous expedition to Veragua, he was driven by foul weather to take shelter in the Indian settlement of Moxaca, on the southern coast of Cuba; where he imperfectly repaired his shattered vessels and put to sea again. The leaks, however, increased; and, in a sinking state, he was forced from his course upon the northern shores of Jamaica—in an unfrequented spot, where he could obtain neither water nor provisions.

Once more he was driven out to sea; and the trade-wind driving him down the coast to the westward, he presently perceived a shallow bay, which, with the gratitude of a storm-beaten mariner he named “Santa Gloria”; and “Saint Ann’s Bay” still marks the traditional spot.

It was here that the memorable mutiny among the crew of Columbus’ ships subsequently broke out. And the name of ‘Ladesma’, frequently occurring in the registries of the island, and borne even within a few years ago by a female domestic in this town, carries us back to a brave Portuguese sailor, who at the peril of his own life, stood at the cabin-door of the great Discoverer, who was then almost dying from fatigue and disappointments, hardships and disease, and defied the elder *Porras* and his comrades, who had sworn to take the life of the unfortunate Columbus.

Near this bay was afterwards settled the first Capital of the island under Spanish rule.

CHAPTER II.

It was in 1509, that the seat of Government of the island of Jamaica was first fixed : On the banks of a small rivulet, close upon Santa Gloria (Saint Ann's Bay) where, just above the rivulet, on the side of a wooded mountain, still remained the Indian village named Mayma. "Sevilla Nueva" (New Seville) was the name given by Diego Columbus, son of Christopher, to this capital—in order to commemorate the successful termination of his suit against the Crown, which had then been recently decided in the "Council of the Indies,"—and he soon after sent his brother, Ferdinand, to found a Monastery there, and assist in the establishment of the colony.

Has any one of you ever visited Seville Estate in the Parish of Saint Ann ? There, amid the discarded mounds of earth, that might, perhaps, to observant eyes, excite some curiosity as to what could possibly lie beneath, are the remains of "Sevilla Nueva"—once the seat of Sacerdotal and of political Government in Jamaica, under the Spaniards, of close upon 400 years ago !

Peter Martyr, the first Abbot, after the death of Ferdinand, continued in favour with the Emperor Charles, who presented him with the hon-

ours and emoluments of the first "Abbey" in Jamaica.

Some local historians say that "THE PRIORY," once, I think, a sugar Estate, afterwards a pen or a coffee plantation in Saint Ann, and now cut up into small settlements, marks the domains, partially, of this early Christian establishment.

Would you ask how Sevilla Nueva, afterwards "Sevilla del Oro" became neglected, and a new capital, our present Saint Jago de la Vega, assumed its place? It is but a small occurrence in the records of our terrestrial archives. It is a simple, an infinitesimal unit in the evolutions of earthly events!

Always troubled by the incursions of hostile Indians from the neighbouring islands; constantly haunted with apprehensions of danger from these, and the inroads of the native tribes immediately surrounding them; the Spaniards longed for a part of their new island settlement, where they would be free from, at all events the chances of marine incursion; which was so easy, on account of the proximity of both Cuba and Hispaniola.

I shall tell the tale of this seeking for a new home in the words of one of the historians of Jamaica.*

"The frightened citizens of Seville ascended through
 "the Indian Village of Mayma, and there diverged from
 "the path which led through Pedro to Esquimel, pene-

* Bridge's Annals.

“trating the tangled woods of the interior in a more
 “easterly direction. They climbed the mountain, which
 “they named—from the monkies whose haunts were
 “thus disturbed—*Monesca**; and, from the summit of a
 “stupendous cliff they descended the threatening rocks,
 “whose aspect suggested to their African slaves the
 “well known Devil’s Mount.” †

“From their eastern base, they threaded the low-land forests, and, guided through a narrow defile, by the course of an impetuous river, which forced its passage between the river cliffs, they again beheld luxurious plains and a distant ocean before them. Here the banks of the Rio Cobre afforded them the security they so anxiously sought. They found a vast Savannah, already opened by Indian cultivation, sufficiently removed from the sea to guard them from the experienced danger of surprise; with a defensible pass in the rear, and a stream of purest water flowing through rich meadows. Upon a gentle slope, extending to its bed, and certainly on the very spot which dear-bought experience had taught them to be the most fit for peaceable possession, they commenced their labours anew. But their resources were not now, as when, beneath the powerful auspices of their ennobled patron, they had formed their first capital. A wandering band of frightened fugitives, they first breathed in security, and rudely built their temporary huts; while on the grassy banks of the river they reared the flocks which fed them. The irregularity in the

* The present MONEAGUE. (Bridges).

† “*Monte Diablo*”—(Idem).

laying out of the town, even yet bears testimony to its unpremeditated origin. The beauty and advantage of its situation soon, however, attracted many inhabitants from Seville; the solitary settlement coalesced into a tolerably sized town; and a square was laid out in the Spanish-American fashion, which has ever since remained*. The seat of government was soon after transferred thither: and a nucleus was thus formed, around which the scattered colonists were speedily concentrated for mutual safety and support. Columbus had bestowed the name of "Saint Jago" on the island; but its earlier name outlived the hallowed title. The vindictive Saint was offended at the neglect!—and the first city of Jamaica fell! Superstition therefore suggested the conciliatory measure of conferring his name upon the new town. The Savannahs which displayed their grassy pride around, lent their aid to the necessary completion of its name; and it was called "Saint Jago de la Vega" or *Saint Jago of the Plains* to distinguish it from its neighbouring capital, "St. Jago de Cuba."

Sir Hans Sloane says:—"The descendants and posterity of Columbus were, and are still called Dukes of Veragua and Vega, and Marquises of Jamaica. Columbus had this island given to him and his heirs, by the Crown of Spain, in place of several privileges and duties he was, by agreement, to have had, as first discoverer and Admiral of these seas, which were, after coming to the knowledge of them, thought too great for a subject to enjoy."

* The present "Church-Parade"? (Author).

And Bridges writes:—"About this period it was that, tired with the vexatious delays of his long pending suit, he agreed to renounce all his higher claims, for the Dukedom of Veragua and the Marquisate of La Vega; to which last was attached the perpetual, though poor sovereignty of Jamaica, where La Vega, then an infant hamlet (*Borgata*, in the Spanish) was situated."

The new capital did not rise so rapidly in repute, as to be of sufficient consequence to afford a permanent title, for it soon gave way to that of Marquis of *Xaymaca*.

Later on, the same writer says—speaking of the continued repetition of the attacks from hostile Indians, which first compelled the Spaniards to abandon New Seville:—"Such constant alarms and repeated attacks obliged the Spaniards of Jamaica to confine themselves to the immediate neighbourhood of their new capital; where they contented themselves with the cultivation of the adjacent lands, by means of the few slaves which their limited sources had enabled them to purchase—for the native population was now extinct. Their effective strength being so concentrated, they bestowed all their attention on the establishment of the town; which was soon distinguished by the residence of an Abbot and the privileges of a City. Religion once again forced Architecture into her service: the Metropolitan See

"of San Domingo lent its aid; and the Monastic In-
 "stitution of New Seville, over which Peter Martyr
 "had presided as Titular Abbot, was now transferred
 "to Saint Jago; where an Abbey was founded, and
 "two Churches, of no mean design, were built.
 "Prosperity once again dawned upon the island: for
 "Portugal in the year 1580 was added to the Crown
 "of Spain: and the territorial right of Jamaica being
 "then vested in the Braganza family, the Portuguese
 "poured into it, expecting peculiar privileges from
 "the circumstance of its sovereignty being in one of
 "their own order. By their industry and persever-
 "ance, they, for a time, augmented its culture and its
 "commerce."

In another place, this historian, writing of the
 new town of Saint Jago de la Vega, says:
 "The buildings there rose as rapidly as those of
 "Seville decayed. A safe and convenient situation
 "attracted a crowd of settlers; their labours were
 "rewarded by the conversion of the neighbouring
 "savannas into a productive district; and in sixteen
 "years from its foundation, the town was esteemed
 "worthy of giving a title to the grandson of the man
 "who had discovered the island, and opened the
 "treasures of the New World to the increasing
 "necessities of the Old."

Some idea may be formed of the importance
 of the old capital of Jamaica, when we find that
 one of its historians—writing of the period of

the Spanish occupation, and after the famous descent upon it of the well known Colonel Jackson, and alluding to the magnificence of the place—describes the inhabitants of the town as the "*Hidalgos*" of St. Jago : the term "*Hidalgo*" in Spanish being equivalent to our "*Knight*" in English.

Thus have we seen that "Spanish Town," as it is commonly called, the present and past "SAINT JAGO DE LA VEGA," was the *Capital* of the island, from the time of its first settlement as a European Colony—now nearly four hundred years ago !

Let us hope that the day is not far distant when the united voice of the whole people in it, will demand its restoration to its former position.

CHAPTER III.

Although the want of more and convenient harbours, from the increasing settlements on the American Continent, had more or less presented the necessity of making Jamaica an English colony, still the project was only revived at intervals. But it is mainly, if not altogether, due to the failure of the expedition against Hispaniola (now Hayti and Santo Domingo) that may be attributed the settlement of Jamaica under the British flag. The elder Cromwell, under whom the negotiations took place, affected to despise it at one period : because he was disappointed by the miscarriage at San Domingo. He feigned much dissatisfaction at the “paltry acquisition” of Jamaica, and declared that he could spare no additional force to recruit the diseased troops, or to maintain “so worthless” an appendage to his government. Yet it afterwards became of more value in his estimation ! As soon as his vexation had evaporated, he exerted himself, with his usual vigour, to afford relief ; and he sent out provisions and supplies of every description. He discovered also the high value which the Spanish Government set upon the island ; and he determined to maintain a conquest, which annoyed a detested enemy so much. The Military officer then in command, Sedgewick, was therefore directed to strengthen the principal harbour by an adequate fortification ; and

a battery was erected at "Careening Point" (the place where Fort Charles, in Port Royal, now stands) mounting twenty-one pieces of ordnance. The "Redoubt" at Passage Fort was also repaired for the protection of the Depot there, and Colonel D'Oyley (the Governor) exerted himself to put the army of occupation in a thoroughly effective state.

As further evidence of the importance of Jamaica, in the early days of its settlement by the English, on account of its peculiar situation in these seas, I shall give two illustrations more.

Firstly, when the island became lost to Spain, its occupation was considered of such vital consequence to that power, that it was made the subject for a declaration of war; and all English ships and effects found in any Spanish port were confiscated. Secondly, some years afterwards, when Richard Cromwell treated with the French Ambassador, respecting the conditions of a peace with Spain, he was told that "His Catholic Majesty would never consent to leave Jamaica in the hands of the English; for that would in time overthrow all the maxims by which he governed his American dominions; moreover, that he would give a considerable sum for its repossession."

Richard was too wise, or too honest to encourage the proposal. But the circumstance proves the vast importance of an island, whose loss threatened the subversion of the Monarchy of Spain; little as it was regarded, for its intrinsic wealth or worth.

Subsequent events fulfilled the nervous foreboding of the Spanish Monarch as to his mode of Government of his colonies, so numerous then in these seas. As a fact, the free institutions of Jamaica and of the many other British possessions that afterwards sprung up around, tended to shake, to an intense degree, the confidence in and loyalty of Spanish-America to "Old Castile"; and the memorable revolution of 1820, that finally separated the Spanish American colonies from their mother-country, was the verification of the fears of the King of Spain more than three hundred years before!

That great historian of the West Indies, Bryan Edwards, in the dedicating pages of his work, to the then reigning Sovereign, uses the following language:—

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty—This political and commercial survey of His Majesty's dominions in the West Indies, which under his mild and auspicious government, are become the principal source of the national opulence and maritime power, is, with his gracious permission, most humbly inscribed by His Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subject and servant, B. Edwards."

Language such as this, used to the Sovereign directly, gives us some idea of the importance of Jamaica, together with the rest of the West Indies, in those days. "The principal source of the national opulence and maritime power" are no mere catch-words to only

embellish a sentence or a sentiment. They could not be lightly used in addressing the Sovereign of Great Britain and Ireland, with respect to the value of one of his possessions. And this was so late as in 1793—100 years ago! How are the mighty fallen!

“Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are they?”

And *where* are they?

And where art thou Jamaica!

I might say.

Then, the “Indian Empire,” which has now become so great as to give another title to the British Sovereign, was in its cradle—under the nursing guidance of the genius of the adventurous and daring Clive! THE CANADAS, to-day a great “DOMINION,” and shewing to the world, another instance of a powerful offshoot from the parent trunk of the great Anglo-Saxon oak, were not yet the “conquered provinces” of Great Britain. The Australias at that time lay amongst the almost unexplored portions of the habitable globe! But Jamaica had been, and was at that period, the “El Dorado” of the day; the bone of contention between rival Kingdoms, and the very important subject of one or more treaties among the nations of Europe. Time, ay, a scant measure of time, has indeed worked wonderful changes upon the relations that one little island, at a particular point of its history, bore in connection with the rest of the world!

CHAPTER IV.

In an earlier chapter, I said it was necessary, before I entered upon my theme of "St. JAGO," that I should first devote some attention to *Jamaica*, as a whole. So now I must ask you to go with me, while I take a glance, cursory and hurried, perhaps, at the parish—the very old parish—of Saint Catherine; of which Saint Jago de la Vega or Spanish Town, the "Old Saint Jago" of my text, is the principal town.

This great, rich, ancient parish of Saint Catherine! This heart of the entire island, through which pulsates every life-throb and sign of existence of the rest of the colony! The radius of the railway traffic of to-day south and north!—and which, when the present contemplated "extensions" are accomplished, will render it more than ever the centre of the island, and the very heart of the colony—has memories and traditions entirely its own; which centuries of Crown Government, and generations of Governors of the capacity of Sir John Peter Grant can never stamp out, can never presume to efface!

The lands of our surrounding districts bear the names of the earlier settlers, in the days of the Commonwealth of England, and afterwards of "The Restoration." DAWKINS', ELLIS' and TAYLORS' *Caymanas* will outlive the iconoclastic efforts of materialistic tyros who

either as adventurers on the troubled sea of politics, or as speculators for high titles to a closing career, "rush in where angels fear to tread;" and where Reason and Justice hesitate, and passionate interest alone claims to act !

"*Lawrencefield*," was the residence of Governor Sir Henry Morgan 200 years ago. "*Passage Fort*" was where the first Governors alternately or periodically resided ; dividing the periods of their residence between "Old Port Royal" and the former place. And, if we go back further and scan the dim past of the Spanish occupation, tradition, if not history, tells us that "*St. Jago Farm*," was once the abode of a Spanish Governor of the Island.* COLBECKS, where lived "John Colbeck of Colbeck," (descended from an ancient British family) preserves to this day, in the ruins of some old castle of the Spanish times, or of its English owner, the memories and connections of the past with the present. "*Aylmers*" in Saint John and "*Bannisters*" in Saint Dorothy, bear the names of military men, two Colonels, who came here with the conquering army ; and subsequently settled under grants of lands, at the time of the Restoration. "Half way Tree" pen, with its representative proprietorship-name, reminds us that Ralph Hotchkin, Attorney-General of Jamaica, more than a hundred years ago, resided there ; a place which has been held, all during that long time to the present, by the same family. "*Port Hen-*

* Don Sasi,—The Governor at the time of the capitulation of the Spaniards.

*der*son" and "*Rodens*" claim the privilege of names from a later settlement, by two other men from the mother-country. "*Juan de Bolas*" the name, not only of mountain and valley and plain, in a certain part of "St. John's district," but of a wide tract of country, to this day reminds us of the brave mulatto Spanish native, whom the English conqueror could neither drive out nor subdue ! "*Keith Hall*" tells of the mountain residence of one of our Governors : Far up in those beautiful and salubrious hills where, unlike the parish of St. Andrew, neither malignant fever or Asiatic cholera has ever yet touched its reputation as a healthy and life-giving resort. "*Ensom pen*" bears the name of the man who settled the place, after its purchase by him in 1718 from the original patentee. "*Government Pen*" reminds us of the time, when the Earl of Balcarres, famous in the annals of Jamaica for his Maroon expeditions, princely feasted and entertained the Admiral and officers of the West Indian and North American fleets of Great Britain—Jamaica being then one of the principal naval stations in these seas. "*Knowles*" estate and "*Barnes*" and "*Jones*" pens, link us to names known as honored ones, in the long line of landed gentry, who once made the parish of St. Catherine, the very head-centre of the respectability of the island.

CHAPTER V.

Come we now to our "Old Saint Jago,"—consecrated by the traditions, histories and memories of centuries! and hallowed and made venerable by the associations of the past in and around it!

"The latitude of Saint Jago de la Vega or Spanish Town, in Jamaica, is 17 deg. 30m N of the equinoctial, between it and the Tropic of Cancer, so that it is placed in the Torrid Zone. Its inhabitants are *Amphiscii*, that is, have their shadows thrown south of them that part of the year when the sun is to the north of them; and north the greater part of the year, namely, when the sun is to the southwards of them. When the sun is vertical or directly over their heads, they are *Ascii*, that is, their bodies at noon have no shadow at all, and this happens twice a year that is, when the sun is going to the Tropic of Cancer and returning from the same."

Sir Hans Sloane (from whom I take the foregoing) in his description of Jamaica, in the early days of the English settlement, says:—The next town in bigness to Port Royal, in the island, is Saint Jago de la Vega, or Saint James of the Plain; a town improving every day. 'Tis the place where the Governor usually resides, and where the Courts of Justice and Records of the Island are kept. It was very great in the Spaniards' time, and then consisted of 2,000 houses, built

all in good order; every street running parallel or else piercing the others at right angles, being broad and very long. It had four Churches and a Monastery. 'Tis situated on the banks of the Rio Cobre; and has plains on each side for several miles. Here the Assembly and Supreme Courts reside; which must make this place in some time very considerable."

In the time of Sir Thomas Modyford (1664) there were seven parishes in the island; namely, St. Catherine, St. John, Port Royal, Clarendon, St. David, St. Andrew and St. Thomas," but there was only *one* CHURCH!—the present "CATHEDRAL". This Church was built upon the remains of, if it were not the original, "Church of the Red Cross" of the Spaniards; and commemorates to this day, the first entrance of Christianity into the "Xaymaca" of the aboriginal inhabitants of these islands. It strikes one here at once, as something singular, that although the town of Port Royal was the first place of note, at the time of the English settlement, and gave its name to a whole parish subsequently, yet the parish of St. Catherine, in which is our old St. Jago, is the first one named by Sir Hans Sloane, in reciting the parishes constituting the entire parochial division of the Island. This again stamps the locality with an importance peculiarly its own! and,

"Lives there a man with soul so dead
 "Who never to himself hath said
 "This is my own—my native land!"

And this Jamaica is my native land ! is the island that gave me birth. Saint Catherine has ever been my home, and "Old Saint Jago" is the cradle wherein in infancy I lay !

"Old faces look upon me, old forms come trooping past !"

Passingly, I might observe, that the house in which Sir Hans Sloane lived, while in Spanish, Town remains to this day. It is one of the tenements at the back of King's House. I remember that my father lived there when I was a boy of about 7 or 8 years old ; and there was a plaister of paris casting, against a portion of the south wall, of some ancient remains, like a slab, in *fresco*, with what then seemed to me, Indian or other hieroglyphical inscription. It might have been contractions of Latin words describing the picture—a Spanish relic found by Sir Hans Sloane ! *

Our CATHEDRAL stands upon the foundation—if it does not actually contain at least a portion of the old building itself—of the "Church of the Red Cross", built by the Spaniards nearly 400 years ago ; and "Red Church Street" attests the truth of the tradition of its site. "Monk Street" points to the locality of the Monastery of the same period. The name of "*The Abbey*," in the days of

* It is only since these last sheets were passing through the Press that I have discovered that "Bridges", in his Introductory Chapter, Vol. 1, p. 24, confirms my early recollections.

my boyhood and early manhood, now represented by only a long stone-wall in Smith's lane—a portion of the premises westward of the "*Hotel Rio Cobre*"—is where up to the year 1858,* stood a stately building, with a staircase of solid mahogany, on which 14 persons could walk abreast ! The site indicates the locality of where, near "The Monastery," stood the domains of the "Lady Abbess" of Jamaica, in the time of the Spanish occupation.

As we tread upon those stone and brick remains of a foundation, long ago laid, in the locality of the open space opposite the eastern end of the Town Hall, and along, opposite the clock tower, in the public square, extending down to the south end of the "House of Assembly" of the old Legislature, we touch the once sacred ground of "THE CHURCH OF THE WHITE CROSS !" which gave its name to our *White Church Street*, as its sister Church, that of the "RED CROSS" gave its name to "*Red Church Street*."

At the North-west corner of White Church and Ellis Streets, view the construction of the entire premises ! and after you have examined all the outlines and studied them, remember that there stood "*The Convent of Saint Catherine !*"

* Destroyed in that year by fire, caused by the electric fluid from a flash of lightning, during a sudden heavy down pour of rain (AUTHOR.)

CHAPTER VI.

THE streets and lanes of our ancient, above all, loyal town, take at a later period, their names from historical and patriotic incidents, and from great connections and memorials. I have already spoken of Red Church and White Church and Monk Streets. "King Street," although not an unusual or uncommon name, is the street in which "King's House" stands. *The King's House of JAMAICA'S HISTORY*, tradition and repute! Built at a cost of—when the colonists feeling they could afford it, voted spontaneously—£20,000 for the erection of an edifice worthy of them. Not the miserable agglomeration of sheds, at an out-of-the-way place—the last point of a roadway—at the foot of a mountain, in a corner of the parish of St. Andrew! A monument of folly; and a witness to the reckless waste of the People's money, on the part of the "Crown Government" of the day! An attestation of the almost complete political emasculation of the manhood of the country at the time!—representing a sum of nearly £15,000 in all, drained, ay, all but criminally wrung, from an impoverished community, to gratify the mere whim and caprice, it may be other less pardonable promptings, of the "one man" rule in this island of Jamaica!

Adelaide Street commemorates the name of the much beloved Dowager Queen of England of the

last reign. 'William Street' is in honor of the sailor prince who visited our shores—Duke of Clarence, and afterwards King William 4th. 'Brunswick Street' is named after a soldier member of the Royal Family, the Duke of the latter part of the past century and the earlier part of the present; and 'Wellington Street' and 'Nelson Lane' tell their own story. Constitution Street—the short street from King's House gate to Mulberry Garden (the present Poor House) in Monk Street—is so called from the locality of the Square; in which are King's House, the old Legislative Council Hall, the Island Record Office, the Halls, Libraries and Committee rooms of the old House of Assembly, the Court Houses and various offices—*built expressly ! for the convenience of the EXECUTIVE and ADMINISTRATIVE Departments of the Island.*

"Canning" lane and "Melbourne" lane tell of two great Prime Ministers of England. "Nugent" street reminds us of the General, who spent many of his years in Jamaica, in previous military grades, and afterwards for a short time administered the government. "Cochrane lane" and "Cochrane gully" refer us to the name of the great naval hero, afterwards Lord Dundonald. "Ellis" street connects us with the family name of Lord Seaford, and of the title joined to it of Howard de Walden; while "Conran" lane speaks plainly of the General and Captain of that name, familiar to the old inhabitants. Manchester street recalls the name of one of the most popular Governors of Jamaica. Barrett street is linked

with the name of one of the ancestors of the first member for St. James and Trelawny in the Legislative Council, under the "new departure." Beckford street, at one bound takes us—for two hundred years back, and down again—to the time when the name was borne by Lieutenant-Governor and Governor. A name that comes down, in Jamaica history, from the first decade of its settlement, in an unbroken line, to within a few years past. A name heard in association with Townships and villages throughout almost the entire island, attesting the extensive ownership of lands, by this family, in almost every parish.

CHAPTER VII.

It was so early as the year 1660, five years after the first landing of the English in Jamaica, under Penn and Venables, that we find "old Saint Jago" holding the first place in the annals of the country. This was then the head quarters of the Government. "A monthly Court Martial met at Saint Jago for the despatch of business." Colonel D'Oyley, who, as Governor and Commander-in-chief, presided at these monthly Courts, was assisted by Colonel Burroughes and Major Fairfax, names familiar to the student of English history of the periods, not only of Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate, but also of the troublous times immediately preceding them.

It was in this town—teeming with traditions at every turn we make, among its old streets and lanes, among its by-paths and on its roadsides—that the first "Council" of the island, representing the twelve districts into which it was then divided, met first to deliberate and to enact laws. Here, in this first Council of Jamaica, were enumerated the divisions of Port Royal, Saint Catherine, Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Thomas, Saint John, Saint George, Saint Mary, Saint James, Saint Ann and Clarendon.

It was in Saint Jago de la Vega, that the first Legislative Assembly met in 1663-64; and here the first laws were passed for the Government of their

infant colony. Here, in this ancient seat of Authority and Government, were the first signs of the Supremacy of the Governing Power exhibited, by those to whom were delegated the functions to command and to rule: For it was here that Colonels Raymond and Tyson were shot, after due trial, for conspiracy against the ruling power. Their execution took place under the spreading branches of the same now old gnarled and knotted truncated Tamarind tree, standing still to this day in "Mulberry Garden," the present "Poor House"; then the locality of "The Hall of Residence" of the Governor.

It was in this memorable town of Saint Jago de la Vega, that the first of those continuous struggles, between the representatives of the people and the Secretary of State for the colonies took place. This occurrence arose from an attempt on the part of Lord Carlisle, the then Governor (1678) to carry into execution, in this island, a long meditated form of Government, modelled according to that of Ireland; and amongst other laws, framed with that intention, he brought in a Bill for settling a perpetual revenue.

I do not think it necessary to take up so much of your time and patience, in order to recount fully and in detail the whole of these transactions; however instructive, possibly, such a recital might be. I shall only here tell you of the striking portions of them, and of the result of the struggle: The acts which had been passed and sent home from

Jamaica were condemned by the Board of Trade ; and subsequently the Earl called the Legislature together. In a speech delivered at the opening of the Session, he adverted to the passing of the acts here, and their condemnation by the Board of Trade in England. The style of language adopted by the Earl, to men animated by the fiery spirit of the time, the more so as they were all more or less military men of high rank, was not calculated to conciliate or to re-assure. After reciting the principal parts of the Earl's speech the historian says "The struggle for liberty, in which the Colonists were thus engaged, merits more than ordinary attention ; for it forms an epoch in the annals of Jamaica, from which is dated the constitution which it now enjoys, and the rank which it now holds." The dispute culminated in the suspension of Chief Justice Long and Speaker Beeston, and of their being afterwards carried to England as prisoners, by the Governor, the Earl of Carlisle, to appear before the King. But Long "fearlessly impeached the Earl ! and subscribed a declaration, which spoke the language of loyalty and resentment."—"He stood before the King to deliver the sentiments of his fellow-colonists ; he spoke in the name, and in the cause of his peers, and the King yielded to the call of Justice and of Freedom !"

The succeeding Governor, Sir Thomas Lynch, declared that—and mark you ! the expressions are given in the exact words used by Sir Thomas—"His

“ Majesty, upon the Assembly’s humble address, was
 “ pleased to restore us to our beloved form of making
 “ laws; wherein we enjoy, beyond dispute, all the
 “ deliberative powers in our Assembly, that the
 “ House of Commons enjoy in their house.”

And this is the glorious Constitution that, within two hundred years afterwards, a handful of mean, cowardly, self-seeking, insignificant men, spontaneously gave up for an expectant “ mess of pottage,” !—which they never afterwards received!!

We need hardly wonder, even at this far distant date after the period alluded to, at those transactions in our island’s history, in the latter part of the 17th century; if we but reflect that the greater portion of, if not all, the men who then comprised the leading colonists of the young settlement, were fresh from, if not the immediate scene, at all events, from the connection and with all the heating memories, of the struggles, on the part of the people of England, against the arbitrary acts and usurpations of power by the unfortunate “ Stuart” family. So far as the struggles, on the part of the colonists in Jamaica were concerned, they continued, with intermediate periods of rest, during over 180 years of the island’s history. It was a struggle between right and might; a contest in which the colonists had been always finally victorious. But in the memorable year of 1865, like many an instance in history, repeating itself, the spirit of party

and of faction, nay, the spirit of class, ay, and of colour and creed, uprose their destructive forms ; and the men, sworn to uphold the constitution of their common country—a constitution hallowed by years of solicitous guardianship and protection, and consecrated by the spirits of generations of noble and magnanimous predecessors in legislation—in a hasty and unguarded hour, voluntarily yielded up a possession, but a few years before envied by most nations in Europe ;—a charter ever jealously held intact and unsullied !—and looked upon as a precious jewel in a casket, by the people of Great Britain ;—and ever will be, by them thus viewed, to their very latest posterity !

CHAPTER VIII.

But let us go back. Let us pass—after the early times in our island's history, and the history of our little but ancient town—through other periods. Come we then to those portions of our annals, which tell of alternate earthquakes, storms and hurricanes; and of consequent suffering, disease and death, on the part of the population. Of the constant perils and alarms, incidental with the frequent inroads upon our coast, by British enemies—France and Spain. But in those periods, we also feel an assurance of the kind of men who composed the great body of English settlers here. The military daring, the fiery ardour and enthusiasm—that animated alike Royalists and Cromwellians, in the mother-country—were fully exemplified in their successors and descendants in this island; especially when viewed in the light of the gallant manner, in which they continually succeeded in driving off their foes, from the shores of their adopted country.

There was a time, and that, as far back as one hundred and thirty-six years ago, when "Old Saint Jago" shewed all the signs of prosperity and of wealth in its surroundings. "The King's House," which had been designed by Mr. Craskell, was com-

pleted and finished at an expense of £30,000. "The banks of the Rio Cobre were vivified by elegant villas and well cultivated farms, and the inhabitants of Saint Jago seemed resolved to render their town worthy of the preference it had now established." They opened an ample space in the savannas around, established a stand of hackney coaches, regulated their police, and "were illustrious by their spirit, or, at least, by their luxury."

As a proof that the voice of the entire community of Jamaica proclaimed this "Old Saint Jago" to be, for all time, the seat of Government, and of the official business of the island, over one hundred thousand pounds of the public funds were freely voted and expended, to build a suitable residence for the Governor; and proper and commodious buildings for the Public Records, the Legislative Halls, Courts of Justice and Public Offices—*all within one square* and in sight of each other!

It is left to be seen whether now, that we have representative institutions, when the voice of the people in the management of their own affairs may once again be heard, this total subversion of the intentions and desires of a whole community, by a vicious and unscrupulous Government, will longer be permitted. Whether these splendid buildings in this ancient square of "Old Saint Jago," erected at vast expense, and admirably adapted for the purposes for which they were built, are to be allowed to go to ruin; while thousands of pounds are yearly

thrown away, in continuous repair of an old crazy mountain residence in St. Andrew ; and for rent for dingy, dirty rooms, scattered over the hot and dusty town of Kingston ; with the chances, of, at any time, having the records of the Supreme Court, and other public valuable documents consumed by fire. While more than fifty thousand pounds have been blindly squandered, in the purchase and so called "improvement," of buildings in Kingston and Saint Andrew, there stand these stately edifices in "Old Saint Jago," which *were erected, and are eminently fitted for* the purposes for which they were intended !

I trust that the new "Parochial Board" of Saint Catherine will deem it one of its first charges to do all in its power to RIGHT THIS WRONG !*

Let the same spirit animate us, as animated those great men gone before ; who stood up, fearlessly, for what they conceived were the first demands of free denizens of England ; and who now lie beneath the hallowed marble of (*by Royal Letters Patent*) THE CATHEDRAL OF JAMAICA,—the whilom Spanish Church of the town of "Old Saint Jago."

* One of the first things which the Author of these pages did after he was elected a Member of the Parochial Board of the Parish, was to move a resolution with respect to, at all events, the restoration to St. Jago de la Vega, of Rodney's Statue. By the zeal and able tactics of the Hon T. L. Harvey, who was in wholesome unison with the movement, that restoration was consented to by SIR HENRY W. NORMAN, the then Governor and duly made by his successor, our present Governor SIR HENRY A. BLAKE, to whom this island already owes so much.

CHAPTER IX.

And this brings us to where again we may point the finger of pride, to the names of those noble souls, settlers here in the early period of this Island's history, and especially those who were of this our "Old Saint Jago:" Of men, whose descendants either became merged, soon after, by marriage in the nobility of Great Britain and Ireland, or laid the foundation of titled families, among the aristocracy of the mother country.

We stand within the sacred walls of the Cathedral of Jamaica—upon the soil, where once rose the "Church of the Red Cross" of over 400 years ago!

In this Cathedral lies Arcedeckne of Glerney Hall, Suffolk, who married a daughter of Francis Love Beckford of Basing Park—a branch of the Beckfords themselves having married into the titled aristocracy of England. The Archers of Swindon, Co. Wilts, lie here, together with Archer of Wexford, of Wicklow of Essex. Beeston lies here. He owned extensive tracts of land in "*Liguania*"—now Liguanea; and was four times successively selected as Speaker of the Assembly; holding, all during that period, a seat as one of the members for the Parish of Port Royal. He was at a later time Governor of Jamaica. He is the same Beeston of whom I already spoke; who, as Speaker of the House of Assembly, was distinguished in that

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office, by his resistance to the attempt of the Governor, the Earl of Carlisle, to enforce here "Poyning's Law of Ireland"; and his successful vindication of the privileges of the Assembly, is fully detailed in the histories of Long, Edwards and Bridges. He was knighted, at the time of his appointment as Lieutenant Governor, by King William III.; and it was under his gallant direction, that the last serious invasion of the Island, by the French—the invasion under Du-Casse—was so admirably repelled. Bourden is here; the Bourden said to be related to Beeston. He is another man of mark in the annals of Jamaica. He was President of the Council and at one time administered the Government. He too proved a formidable resistance to arbitrary power in the time of the administration, as Governor, of Monk, Earl of Albemarle. Here too lie, all together, the bodies of Peter Beckford the elder—successively President of the Council, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief; of his sons George and Peter Beckford and of his daughter Phillis; of his grandson, another Peter, son of the second Peter. Elizabeth Beckford, daughter of this second Peter, became the wife of the second Earl of Effingham, and was the mother of a Governor of Jamaica. There is an affecting inscription on the marble monument to the Earl of Effingham (alluded to before) and his beloved wife. I shall not give it here, for to those of my readers who have visited the Cathedral, the monument and inscription

are familiar. To those who have not, I say go and gaze your fill, and read for your satisfaction; for the sculpture is exquisite and the words are touching! William Beckford, M.P., of the City of London and Lord Mayor also for the same, during the reign of George III., was a son of this Peter Beckford. William Beckford married Maria, daughter and co-heir of the Honble. George Hamilton, second surviving son of James, sixth Earl of Abercorn; by whom he had issue, William, the famous author of "Vathek" and the proprietor of the still more famous "Fonthill." He was by his mother's side a descendant, in a direct line, from James, second Lord Hamilton, by Mary Stuart his wife, eldest daughter of James the Second of Scotland. William Beckford of Fonthill married the daughter of the Earl of Aboyne; and his daughter Susanna Euphemia, married the tenth Duke of Hamilton; and was grandmother of the last or present Duke. His cousin, William Beckford of Somerly in Suffolk, was the author of several small works on Jamaica.* The "Beckford" family are also represented at the present time in the peerages of "Ancaster," Rivers, &c. The Beckfords' wealth is alluded to by Lytton in one of his works, and also by "Ouida." They were millionaires when such Plutonian magnates were scarce. Here repose the Blairs; the Blakes, of more than one branch.

*Whilst this was in type the researches of Mr. F. Cundall of the Jamaica Institute have brought to light a great deal that is interesting in connection with Mr. Beckford of Somerly.

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first representatives of Jamaica, having been returned to the Assembly 20th January, 1663-64, as member for "Seven Plantations"—now the Parish of Clarendon. His widow married secondly Sir Francis Watson, Knight, who administered the Government of Jamaica from the death of the Earl of Albermarle in 1688 to the arrival of the Earl of Inchiquin in 1690. Come we now to the splendid monument to the memory of Elizabeth Mary, Countess of Elgin and Kincardine. Her death occurred in 1843. I was then a boy of nine years old. But I shall never forget, nor can you, my friends, who remember the event, ever forget the truly national grief evinced on that occasion. Although she died in Saint Andrew, her beloved and afflicted consort had her corpse brought to this, the ancient capital of the Island, the seat of Government, for interment. There was great and splendid pageantry in the funeral procession on account of her rank. But it was not the less a really mournful pageantry! For what eye-witness can ever efface from his memory the depth of sorrow, depicted upon every countenance, from the highest to the lowest that followed in the cavalcade, or gazed, in mute distress of heart, on the long and woeful line on its passage to the graveyard! Those were the days when "the people loved their rulers!"

Matthew Gregory—the great benefactor of the poor—lives in everlasting fame, on account of his good deeds. No words of mine can tell of the glory that of right belongs to him. They live until to-day and will

for ever live in the "charity" that bears his name in this parish. Robert Hotchkyn, Attorney General of Jamaica, reminds us that there lives amongst us, now in this parish and within this very district, a lineal descendant of his, who bears his name; a gentleman whom I am sure all who know him respect. Half-way Tree Pen, where this descendant now resides, has remained in the family from the time of his here-mentioned ancestor to the present moment—a period of over one hundred and eighty years. Sir Basil Keith, Governor, next claims attention. Keith Hall, up in our "Saint Catherine mountains" tells of the country residence of this Governor of Jamaica. Samuel Long, a Colonel, too, in those days, was the grandson of John Long of Netheravan, Co. Wilts, England. The family of this Samuel Long is described as "the Longs of Longville, Jamaica, Hampton Lodge, Surrey, and originally from Wilts. Edward Long, a great grandson of Samuel, filled the office of Chief Justice of the Admiralty Court here. This family, so eminent and distinguished, in the early British occupation of Jamaica, gave to the island its chief historian, Edward Long, eldest son of Samuel Long, the eldest son of Charles Long, whose fourth son, Beeston Long, was father of the first Lord Farnborough.

Here lies Elizabeth, wife of Colonel Nicholas (afterwards Governor Sir Nicholas) Lawes, and only daughter of Sir Thomas Modyford, Baronet. Here

lies also Sir Charles Lyttleton, son of Sir Thomas Lyttleton, first Baronet of Frankley, Co. Worcester, and heir to his brother: Sir Henry, the second Baronet, was distinguished for his loyal and valiant activity in the cause of Charles the First, and was engaged with Sir George Booth in the unsuccessful Cheshire rising in 1659. In 1662 Sir Charles was knighted, and accompanied the Governor—Thomas, Lord Windsor—as Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of this Island. On his Lordship's departure, October 28 of the same year, the command devolved on Sir Charles, who, as Deputy Governor, issued an Ordinance, dated at Point Cagua (Port Royal) 23rd October, 1663, addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Lynch, Provost Marshal, to have an Assembly "fairly and indifferently chosen" by the votes of the inhabitants of the several precincts of the Island. This Legislative Assembly, the first in Jamaica, met, mark you! my friends! in "the town of Saint Jago de la Vega," this old Saint Jago, on the 20th day of January 1664—two hundred and twenty-three years ago! Let us hope, ay, determine, that the Assembly, that so hastily voluntarily yielded up, in a too confiding moment the liberties of this ever-free colony, shall not be the last to sit in this town of Saint Jago de la Vega! By marriage, Sir Charles Lyt leton of Hagley became connected with the family of Sir William Fairfax of Steeton, who married into the family of Sir Thomas Chaloner, Governor and Chamberlain to Prince Henry.

Then we come to the Jameses, the Lewises, and the Lynches. But let us halt at the tablet that tells of the death of Sir Thomas Modyford the elder, and Sir Thomas Modyford the younger. Sir Thomas, as Governor of Jamaica, by his own sole authority, twice proclaimed war against the Spaniards. He was created a Baronet on the first day of March, 1663-4, married Elizabeth, daughter of Lewin Palmer, Esquire, of Devonshire; and died, in Jamaica, according to his epitaph, in 1679. His successors matched with the families of Sir Thomas Norton, Baronet, Guy of Barbados, Heathenstall of London, and lastly of Sir William Beeston, Knight, Governor of Jamaica, whose daughter and heiress married Sir Thomas Modyford, fifth and last Baronet. On the death of Sir Thomas she married Charles Long, Esquire of Jamaica. In 1843 while preparing a vault for the reception of the remains of the much lamented Countess of Elgin, the bones of Sir Thomas and Lady Modyford were unintentionally disturbed; and some beautiful locks of dark auburn hair, no doubt the hair of the deceased Lady Modyford were found after a lapse of 164 years in a full state of preservation.

The Honorable Charles Price was second baronet of that name, and married the widow of John Woodcock, Esquire. He died in 1778, when he was succeeded in the Baronetcy by his brother Sir Rose Price, third and last Baronet. Francis Price, a captain in the Army under Venables, at the capture of Jamaica,

married the widow of Lieutenant Colonel Rose, also one of the conquerors of the Island, and the scion of an ancient family long settled in the counties of Dorset and Gloucester. By Sarah, daughter of P. Edmunds, Esquire, of Jamaica, he was father of Charles, the first Baronet, whose son, as above succeeded him. The Honorable George Price, in our time, of Worthy Park, Luidas Vale, in the St. John's district of this Parish, member of the Privy Council, and the Legislative Council, and at one time one of the Executive Committee, and a Custos of our Parish, is a lineal descendant of these Prices. By marriage he became connected with the Earls of Talbot and Shrewsbury. This Price family is a very ancient one. They were originally "Ap Rice," and trace their descent from the original princes of the kingdom of Wales.

Then there are the Kellys, the Nedhams, the Roses, the Rennallses, the Redwars, the Risbys, the Rodons, the Smiths, Stantons, Selwyns, Tolderbys, Taaffes, Williamsons, Willyses, Worleys; all more or less of note in Jamaica history. But it is time perhaps that I draw to a close. Before I do so however, I may suppose there are still some hoary heads, in this town and its vicinity, at all events in this parish, whose memory can carry them back to the times of the Jacksons, the Parkers, the Palmers, the Redwoods, the Shands, the Taylors of years subsequent to those already mentioned. Then come Hugo James, and Watkis, and Berry, and Burge, Dare and Batty. In

my time I remember the Aikmans, the Allwoods, the Farquharsons, Foster, Gordon, Harvey, Heslop, the Kembles, Land, Mackeson, Moncrieffe, Myers, Macdougall, Panton, Stevensons, the Smiths.

There was a time and that within my memory when over thirteen barristers at law and long over thirty solicitors practised and mostly resided in or near Spanish Town—this same old St. Jago. It seems but yesterday when Bryan Edwards, Foster, Jones, Middleton, Moncrieffe, Russell, Henry Lynch, Mowbray Morris, afterwards Chief on the editorial staff of the *London Times*, Mackeson, Simon, now Sergeant at Law and M.P. England, Heslop, Roper, and Warner, were practising Counsel.

We come to so late as 1848-49 when Sir Charles Grey was Governor. He rode in a State Coach drawn by four horses, and had outriders as part of his equipage. Besides coachman and groom, he had two footmen standing behind his coach holding, in their dignity, their straps in holders; all in splendid livery. When the Honorable James Gayleard, President of the Council, rode too in State Coach and pair with coachman and groom on the box and a footman behind standing with strap and holder, all too in livery. Sir Joshua Rowe, Chief Justice, in his stately barouche with liveried servants. The Honorable William Church Macdougall driving in unicorn with high-booted postilion. The Honorable Alexandre Bravo, always arriv-

ing in town, on the first day of the meeting of Council, of which he was a member, with four in hand, his wife and then young family inside, himself on the driving box with his son Alexandre, afterwards Major and acting Governor in one of Her Majesty's colonies in Africa, seated beside him; while Mr. Moses Bravo followed with his wife, driving a gay and attractive tandem. "Old Saint Jago" has its traditions; and is full of memories of the old past and the grander days of Jamaica. A hundred of these memories as it were pass before my eyes, and I feel a real pleasure in recalling some of them, associated as they are with the days of my boyhood, of my youth, and my early manhood. I well remember the first day of the inauguration of a new Governor, attended at old King's House by all the heads of departments and highest officials of the colony. The Lieutenant Governor, who was always then the Major-General commanding the Forces in this Island, and his brilliant staff; the Admiral, with his staff; the Commodore on the station—the whole in full dress uniform. The Bishop with his mitre on, and in his black silk gown with ample lawn sleeves. The three Archdeacons in their full college dress and honours. The Chief Justice and Pusine Judges in their purple robes. The Registrar in Chancery and Clerk of Patents, gowned in black silk and bearing on a scarlet velvet cushion the insignia, in gold, of Equity and of his office. The Clerk of the Crown and Supreme Court, with parchment scroll surmounted by the

British Crown in gold. The Military and Navy in full dress uniform. The foreign Consuls also in uniform—those of Spain, France, Austria, and the Mscquito territory being most conspicuous for their splendour. The three members of “the mixed Commission” (for the adjudication of cases arising out of the slave trade treaties) in their peculiar dress of white kerseymeres trimmed in silver, and their silver sheathed swords suspended in fine silver chains. The military band of music arriving from the barracks, at the head of the regiment, with standards flying, and taking up their position in the present garden, on the left hand opposite to the front of the King’s House. During the administration of the usual oaths to the new Governor, the playing of the National Anthem, and this followed by a salvo of fourteen guns from two field pieces positioned in front of Rodney’s Statue, then its original site, under the dome of the Colonnade, at the north side of the public square.

Then there was the opening day of the annual meeting of the Legislature, with almost the like pageantry and with the members of the Privy Council in Windsor uniform, and the members of the Legislative Council, attended by “Black Rod” in full Court dress, with his *chapeau bras*. The entrance of the Governor into the Egyptian Hall of King’s House, in full military dress as Captain General and Commander in Chief, attended by his Secretary in Windsor uniform, and his aid-de-camp in full military dress. The despatch

of Black Rod, by the Governor, summoning the Assembly to attend him in the Council Chamber. The arrival of Black Rod at the bar of the Assembly hall, delivering the message and his retiring backways, making his obeisance three times to the Chair while retiring. The attendance of the Speaker and the whole House, headed by the Sergeant at Arms carrying, with head covered by his *chapeau bras*, the large gilt mace of the House, and with his ivory hilted sword at side, while the Band plays the grand and stately "God save the Queen." These pageantries followed by a grand dinner at King's House to the Lieutenant Governor and staff, Admiral and staff, Chief Justice, Bishop, and the high officials of the day.

I well remember, although I was a small boy at the time, the grand Ball with attendant illuminations by the then Governor, Sir Charles, afterwards Lord Metcalfe, in honor of the marriage of our beloved Queen with Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha; and subsequently in honor of the respective births of the Princess Royal, and the Prince of Wales. The tri-weekly dinner parties at King's House during the sitting of the Legislature; the twice a week dinner parties at the residence of the President of the Council; and the weekly dinner parties by the Speaker of the Assembly; besides the complimentary return dinners by the members of Council and the more wealthy and aristocratical among the members of the House

of Assembly. These scenes have passed away! The remembrance of them, only, lives with the Spanish-tonsians—the dwellers in “Old Saint Jago”—where she stands a Niobe of Crown Government, “childless and crownless—an empty urn within her withered hands!”

See you that dilapidated old building, still surrounded by that solid brick wall—the bricks and workmanship of a superior quality, peculiar, in Jamaica, to Spanish Town—this “Old Saint Jago?” I allude to the premises of old Mrs. Lorimer, with the guinep tree—the common heritage by right of tradition, it would appear of stoning school boys, from my time, and no doubt from long before, to the present day—situate at the corner of Martin and Wellington Streets. Do you know that there “Ellis,” afterwards Lord Seaford, first drew his breath? That house was his birth-place!

The “Eagle House,” at the lower part of King Street, opposite the Public Hospital—called Eagle House, on account of each of the pillars at the gateway having been surmounted by the Spanish eagle. The eagles were thought, by the common people, to be figures of crows, and hence they named the place “John Crow House,” the name it commonly bears to the present day. This was the residence of the famous wealthy and potent Spanish Hidalgo, Sir James Costillo, the agent in this island of the great Royal African Company, of those days. There he feasted right royally, and held those nightly revels peculiar to

Spanish tastes and especially in those times. "*Sic transit Gloria!*"

Referring back to Sir Adam Williamson's monumental tablet in the chancel of the Cathedral: It was after his brilliant military and diplomatic services to the Crown of Great Britain, in Hispaniola, that, yielding up the position of acting Governor in this Island to the Earl of Balcarres, who had just arrived as Governor in Chief, that the latter brought out with him from his Sovereign, a Commission to invest the gallant and worthy General with the Ensignia of the Order of the Bath. The brilliant function took place in that same King's House, now so much neglected by those whose duty it is to conserve the public property of the inhabitants of Jamaica. I shall relate the splendid occasion in the words of the newspapers of the time.

Ceremonial observed at the investiture of His Excellency Sir Adam Williamson with the Ensignia of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, on Tuesday last, the 21st April, 1795, at Spanish Town.

At half past 11 a.m. the Royal Standard was displayed in the centre of the Parade facing the King's House, and saluted by 21 guns from the Field Artillery on the spot. At 12 o'clock 21 guns were fired from all the Forts in the Island, and also by the Royal Navy in the Harbours.

His Majesty's Commissioner the Earl of Balcarres was saluted by the Troops, who were assembled under Arms in front of the House of Assembly, and a procession was made from thence to the King's House in the following order:—

Superintendent carrying a scarlet Rod, with a gold chain,
Capt. Bartlett,

Music of the 62nd Regiment,

The Officers of the Royal Navy—two and two,

The Officers of the Royal Artillery—two and two,

Officers of the Army, and Officers of the Militia,

Quartermaster General and Adjutant General,

Major of Brigade and Commissary General,

The Staff of the Island,

Mace of the Provost Marshal,

The Provost Marshal,

Secretary of the Island,

Music of the 20th Light Dragoons,

Commissioner's Secretary bearing the Commission on a
crimson velvet cushion, fringed with gold, and with
a gold chain,

The Commissioner's Aid-de-Camp,

The Earl of Balcarres, His Majesty's Commissioner,

Supported by two Major Generals of the Militia,

The Sword of State, upon a crimson velvet cushion,
fringed with gold, with a gold chain,

Governor's Secretary carrying the ribbon and Ensigns of
the Order, upon a cushion of crimson velvet, with
a gold chain,

The Governor's Domestic Chaplain,

The Governor's Aid-de-Camp,

His Excellency Sir Adam Williamson, Knight Elect,

Supported by the President of the Council, and the

Speaker of the House of Assembly,

Members of the Council, two and two,

Judges of the Supreme Court, two and two,

Members of the House of Assembly, two and two,

Masters in Chancery, two and two,

Clerk of the Crown and King's Solicitor,
Gentlemen of the Island, two and two.

The procession passed in slow march from the House of Assembly across the Parade, to the King's House, all uncovered. Upon arriving at the Great Hall, they advanced to the West end where an elegant Throne was erected with a Chair of State, &c. Upon the right of the Throne was a superb chair for His Majesty's Commissioner. The procession having reached the upper end of the Great Hall, the King's Commission was read by the Superintendent after silence being proclaimed by sound of trumpet. The Earl of Balcarres then advanced to the Chair on the right side of the Throne, making a most graceful obeisance to the Throne in passing it; which had a powerful effect, and was highly pleasing.

The trumpets then sounded, as a signal for Sir Adam Williamson, who, with his attendants, were conducted towards the Throne, to which he made three obeisances. Upon his nearly approaching the Throne, he knelt upon a crimson velvet cushion, and was knighted by His Majesty's Commissioner, who laid the Sword of State over his left shoulder. He then rose, and knelt a second time, when the King's Commissioner put the red ribbon over his right shoulder. His Excellency then retired making three obeisances again to the Throne, and was saluted by 21 guns. The ceremony closed by the Troops marching past the King's House and saluting His Excellency, who afterwards held a Levee.

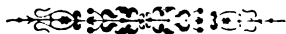
A most elegant entertainment was provided, and placed in the supper-room, where part of the Company retired. The table was graced by the greatest number of beautiful women ever seen assembled in this part of the world; the decorations upon this occasion were truly splendid and everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum. The easy and graceful deportment of Lord Balcarres was highly pleasing, and attracted particular notice. His Excellency Sir Adam Williamson went through

the ceremony with much grace, indeed, the whole was so well conducted that every spectator was gratified.

(*Royal Gazette, 25th April, 1795, Kingston, Jamaica.*)

I may be pardoned if, before I close, I say something political. From my early connection with the Press of this Island and with the Reporter's gallery, respectively of the Council and Assembly—arising firstly from my father's long connection with them, and then my own, subsequently, I know something of the "unwritten" political history of my country. The present time seems to me brimful of events to come, of good or evil to Jamaica. Representative institutions have been restored to us. As a dweller in the old and venerable cradle of political liberty of the Colony, I may be allowed, from the familiar associations around me and the recollections I have, to make some observations founded upon experience. In my opinion the *juste milieu* of political happiness for my country was reached by us, and the long ebb tide of prosperity had again set back in flow, when the constitution of 1854-55, with its Executive Committee, was created; and while that Executive Committee was considered, not a ministry responsible to the people, but appointed advisers of the Governor—selected by him, on account of known and acknowledged ability and political business aptitude, for their peculiar offices. Envy, faction and malice succeeded in making this Committee a *quasi responsible* ministry.

It was a fatal mistake! The germs of the culmination in 1865 were planted then—in 1861. Let us beware!—and, heeding the past, let it guide us in the future. Step by step, but slowly and very cautiously, let us feel our way in the almost “dark uncertain” that lies before us. Let none of us be too sanguine; although there indeed be no cause for anxiety, still less for despair. We may only hope, while we guide, not control events. But let us all join in restraining, it may be the rashness of some, the wilfulness of others, the common intemperance of action, of most of us. To quote the words of Bridges:—“The seeds “of freedom strike their roots deep into the genial “soil which Englishmen inherit; and they have since “arisen almost to maturity through most anomalous “institutions of Jamaica. Let not unskilful hands “attempt to force them, or like her native aloe, which “blooms not till the end of life, they too may blossom, but to die!”



APPENDIX.

Funeral of the Countess of Effingham.

Agreeable to a joint vote of their Honors His Majesty's Council, and the Hon. House of Assembly appointing a Committee for conducting the funeral ceremony of the Countess of Effingham, about 8 o'clock yesterday morning Her Ladyship's remains were landed at Port Henderson from on board the *Diana* and received by the 13th Regiment under Arms, who delivered the body to the gentlemen of the Committee by whom it was conducted hither under escort of St. Catherine Troop of Horse, there attending to receive it. The *Diana* continued firing minute guns from the time the corpse was put into the boat until after eight, by which time the cavalcade had proceeded considerably towards this town. A Company of Royal Artillery stationed on the Parade, took up and continued the fire until the Company had deposited their charge in the King's House.

On approaching town the Militia in their uniform were drawn up at open order lining the street from Church Parade to the public buildings and having the Band of the Royals stationed in their centre. And in front of the buildings the 62nd Regiment were also under Arms, the respective Bands playing the Dead March in Saul until the solemnity was concluded.

Her Ladyship's remains lay in State all day under a canopy in the Council Chamber, which was properly fitted up for the purpose, and the funeral procession began betwixt 5 and 6 in the following order :

The order of the Funeral Service and Music appointed for the occasion was as follows :—

When the corpse arrived at the Church Gate the Minister read the Exordium to the Funeral Service.

That being ended,

A Duetto "Pergolesi" MR. AND MRS. MAHON—"Pious Orgies."

The first part of the Service having been read instead of the Psalm.

A SONG,—MR. MAHON—*Messiah*—"I know that my Redeemer liveth."

SONG—MR. BOWES—*Messiah*.

RECITATION—"Behold I show you a mystery."

SONG—"The trumpet shall sound."

THE SERMON.

SONG—MR. BOWES—*Messiah*.

"The Lord worketh wonders."

A SOLEMN MOVEMENT whilst the corpse was carrying into the vault *Anne*.

The rest of the Funeral Service.

A SOLEMN MOVEMENT—*Handel*.

The Funeral Service was read by the Revd. Mr. Woodham, Rector of this Parish, and the Sermon preached by the Revd. Mr. Warren, Chaplain to the Hon. House of Assembly.

The corpse was interred in the vault built for the purpose immediately under the monument of Sir Basil Keith upon the North East side of the Church.

(*The St. Jago Gazette, 3rd Nov., 1791.*)

A LINK IN AN OLD CHAIN.



IN the yard of the Jamaica Cathedral, in Saint Jago de la Vega, formerly the Churchyard of the Parish Church of Saint Catherine, looking from the south door, at a distance, not quite midway, and a little more to the right, rather than the centre, is a grave with a white marble tablet, on which is the following inscription :—

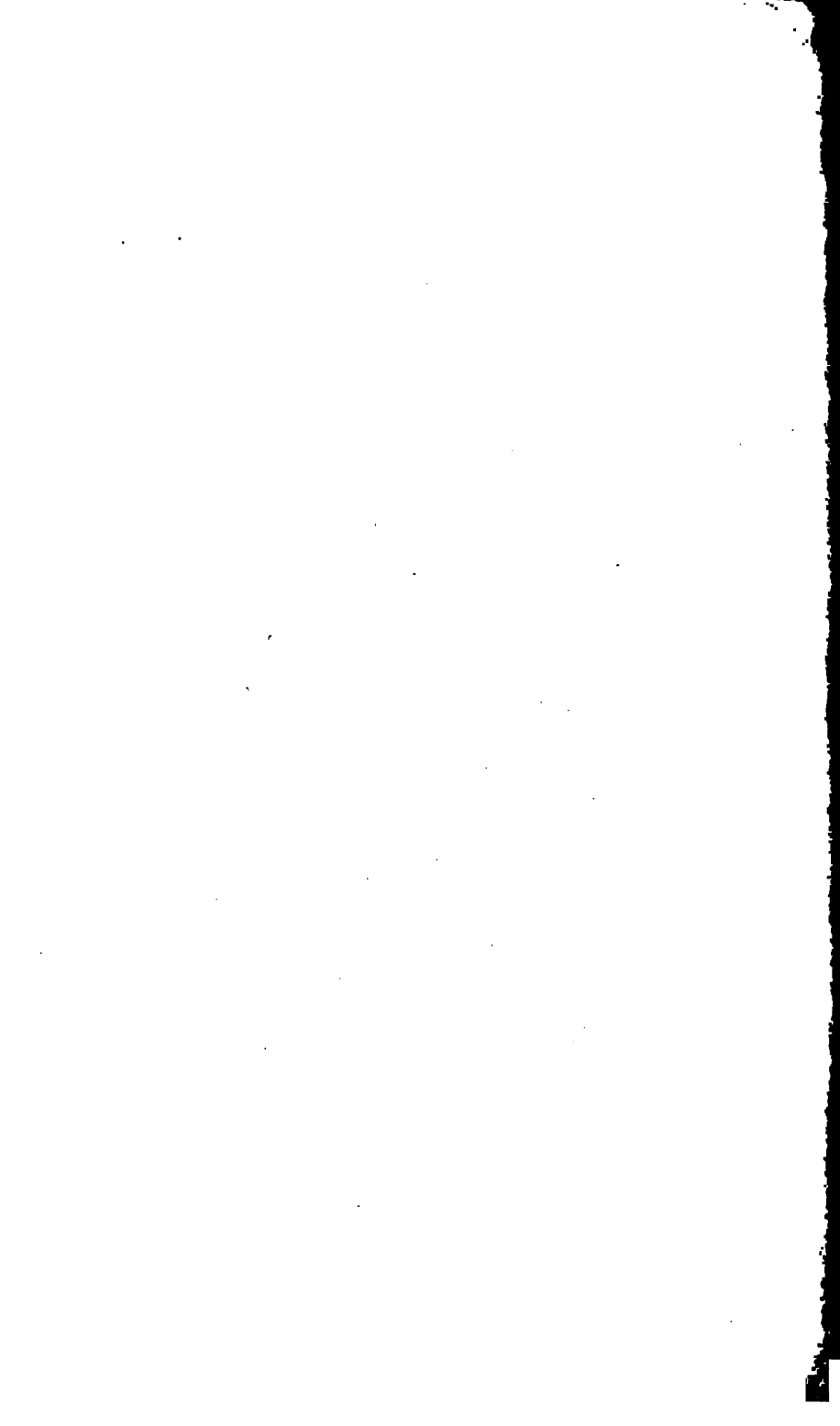
IN
MEMORY OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON REED,

Master Commandant in the Navy of the
United States.

Born at *Philadelphia*, May 26th, 1780,
Captured in the U.S. Brig of War *Vixen* ;
Under his command,
By H. B. M. Frigate *Southampton* ;
He died a prisoner of War at this place,
January 4th, 1813.
Unwilling to forsake his companions in
Captivity, He declined a proffered parole,
and sank under a tropical fever.

THIS STONE

Is inscribed by the hand of affection
as a memorial of his virtues :
and records the gratitude of his friends,
For the kind offices which
in the season of sickness and hour of Death
He received at the hands of
A generous Foe.



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